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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

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In re Patent Application of:  
Michael E. Rickey, et al.

Application No.: Continuation of 10/278,011

Group Art Unit: N/A

Filed: July 25, 2003

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

For: PREPARATION OF BIODEGRADABLE,  
BIOCOMPATIBLE MICROPARTICLES  
CONTAINING A BIOLOGICALLY ACTIVE  
AGENT

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**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Please enter the following Preliminary Amendment in the above-captioned application prior to the examination thereof.

It is not believed that extensions of time are required beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, if additional extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required therefor are hereby authorized to be charged to our Deposit Account No. 50-0740.

**In the Specification**

Page 1, first paragraph of the specification, please amend the paragraph to read as follows: